

Appl. No. 10/691,982
Amdt. Dated 7/18/2005
Response to Office action dated 5/25/2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of application independent telephone call initiation, the method comprising:

providing a computer having a display, an input device, an application program and a telephone call module,

the application program comprising an integrated body of computer software comprised of one or more files, modules or parts that calls operating system services and performs work for a user, and

the telephone call module comprising software distinct from the application program and operating apart from the application program;

the application program causing a telephone number to be displayed on the display;

a user using the input device to activate the displayed telephone number;

the telephone call module recognizing the activation of the displayed telephone number;

and

the telephone call module, in response to recognizing the activation of the displayed telephone number, causing a signal to be sent to a switch instructing the switch to initiate a telephone call between a predefined telephone number and the displayed telephone number.

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Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 1 further comprising:

the user using the input device to activate a second telephone number;
the telephone call module recognizing the activation of the second telephone number; and
the telephone call module, in response to recognizing the activation of the second telephone number, causing a second signal to be sent to the switch instructing the switch to initiate a conference call between the predefined telephone number, the displayed telephone number and the second telephone number.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 2 wherein the signal and the second signal are joined in a single message to the switch.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 1, wherein the causing step includes transmitting the predefined telephone number and the displayed telephone number to the switch.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 1 further comprising:

the telephone call module receiving call status information from the switch; and
the telephone call module causing the call status information to be provided to the user.

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Claim 6 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 5, wherein the step of the telephone call module causing the call status information to be provided to the user comprises displaying the call status information.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 5, wherein the call status information comprises a status selected from the group including connected, dropped, busy and closed.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 1 further comprising the telephone call module sending a call initiation message for causing the signal to be sent to the switch.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 8 wherein the telephone call module sends the call initiation message directly to the switch.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 8 wherein the telephone call module sends the call initiation message to a server, the sending step further comprising opening a dedicated TCP connection to authenticate the user and start a call session with the server.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 8 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more HTTP requests.

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Claim 12 (Original): The method of application independent telephone call initiation of claim 8 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more SIP messages sent on a data network.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A computer program product stored on a machine readable medium comprising computer software distinct from an application program and operating apart from the application program, the computer software having instructions for causing a processor to:

recognize activation by a user of a telephone number displayed by an application program; and

in response to recognizing the activation of the displayed telephone number, cause a signal to be sent to a switch instructing the switch to initiate a telephone call between a predefined telephone number and the displayed telephone number.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising computer software having instructions for causing the processor to:

recognize activation of a second telephone number; and

in response to recognizing the activation of the second telephone number, cause a second signal to be sent to the switch instructing the switch to initiate a conference call between the predefined telephone number, the displayed telephone number and the second telephone number.

Claim 15 (Original): The computer program product of claim 14 wherein the signal and the second signal are joined in a single message to the switch.

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16 (Currently amended): The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising computer software having instructions for causing the processor to:

receive call status information from the switch; and

cause the call status information to be provided to the user.

Claim 17 (Original): The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the computer software having instructions to cause the call status information to be provided to the user comprises instructions to display the call status information.

Claim 18 (Original): The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the call status information comprises a status selected from the group including connected, dropped, busy and closed.

Claim 19 (Original): The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising computer software having instructions for causing the processor to send a call initiation message for causing the signal to be sent to the switch.

Claim 20 (Original): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for causing the processor to send the call initiation message comprise instructions for sending the call initiation message to the switch.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for causing the processor to send the call initiation message comprise instructions for causing the processor to:

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open a dedicated TCP connection to authenticate the user;

start a call session with the server; and

send the call initiation message to the server.

Claim 22 (Original): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more HTTP requests.

Claim 23 (Original): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more SIP messages sent on a data network.

Claim 24 (Original): A general purpose computer comprising the computer program product of claim 13, the application program, a display for displaying the telephone number, a user input device for receiving the activation, and a communications interface for sending the signal to the switch.

Claim 25 (Original): The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the computer software comprises a second application program.

Claim 26 (Original): The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the computer software comprises a dynamic linked library.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A client computer for application independent telephone call initiation, the client computer comprising:

a user input device;

a display device;

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a processor; and

a memory;

wherein the processor and the memory comprise circuits and software for;

recognizing activation by a user of a telephone number displayed by an
application program, and

in response to recognizing the activation of the displayed telephone number,
causing a signal to be sent to a switch instructing the switch to initiate a telephone call between a
predefined telephone number and the displayed telephone number.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The client computer for application independent telephone call
initiation of claim 27, wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software
for;

recognizing activation of a second telephone number; and

in response to recognizing the activation of the second telephone number, causing a
second signal to be sent to the switch instructing the switch to initiate a conference call between
the predefined telephone number, the displayed telephone number and the second telephone
number.

Claim 29 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of
claim 28 wherein the signal and the second signal are joined in a single message to the switch.

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Claim 30 (Currently amended): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 27 wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software for:

receiving call status information from the switch; and
causing the call status information to be provided to the user.

Claim 31 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 16, wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software for displaying the call status information.

Claim 32 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 16, wherein the call status information comprises a status selected from the group including connected, dropped, busy and closed.

Claim 33 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 27 wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software for sending a call initiation message for causing the signal to be sent to the switch.

Claim 34 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 33 wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software for sending the call initiation message to the switch.

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Claim 35 (Currently amended): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 33 wherein the processor and the memory further comprise circuits and software for:

opening a dedicated TCP connection to authenticate the user;

starting a call session with the server; and

sending the call initiation message to the server.

Claim 36 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 33 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more HTTP requests.

Claim 37 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 33 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more SIP messages sent on a data network.

Claim 38 (Original): The client computer for application independent telephone call initiation of claim 27 wherein the software comprises an application program and a telephone call module distinct from the application program.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): A method of server-based telephone call initiation, the method comprising:

providing a server having a network application program and a telephone call module;

the application program sending a message to a client computer for causing a first telephone number to be displayed by the client computer;

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the application program receiving a message from the client computer that the displayed telephone number has been activated; and

the telephone call module, in response to receiving the message, causing a signal to be sent to a switch instructing the switch to initiate a telephone call between a second, predefined telephone number and the first telephone number.

Claim 40 (Currently amended): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 39 further comprising:

the telephone call module receiving a message from the client computer that a third telephone number has been activated; and

the telephone call module, in response to receiving the message that the third telephone number has been activated, causing a second signal to be sent to the switch instructing the switch to initiate a conference call between the first telephone number, the second telephone number and the third telephone number.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 40 wherein the signal and the second signal are joined in a single message to the switch.

Claim 42 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 39, wherein the causing step includes transmitting the first telephone number and the second telephone number to the switch.

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Claim 43 (Currently amended): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 39 further comprising:

the telephone call module receiving call status information from the switch; and
the telephone call module sending the call status information to the client computer.

Claim 44 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 39 further comprising the telephone call module sending a call initiation message for causing the signal to be sent to the switch.

Claim 45 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 44 wherein the telephone call module sends the call initiation message directly to the switch.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 44 wherein the telephone call module sends the call initiation message to another server.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 44 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more HTTP requests.

Claim 48 (Original): The method of server-based telephone call initiation of claim 44 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more SIP messages sent on a data network.

Claim 49 (Currently amended): A computer program product stored on a machine readable medium comprising computer software having instructions for causing a processor to:

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send a message to a client computer for causing a first telephone number to be displayed by the client computer;

receive a message from the client computer that the displayed telephone number has been activated; and

in response to receiving the message, cause a signal to be sent to a switch instructing the switch to initiate a telephone call between a second, predefined telephone number and the first telephone number.

Claim 50 (Currently amended): The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising computer software having instructions for causing the processor to:

receive a message from the client computer that a third telephone number has been activated; and

in response to receiving the message that the third telephone number has been activated, cause a second signal to be sent to the switch instructing the switch to initiate a conference call between the first telephone number, the second telephone number and the third telephone number.

Claim 51 (Original): The computer program product of claim 50 wherein the signal and the second signal are joined in a single message to the switch.

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Claim 52 (Original): The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the instructions for causing the processor to cause include instructions for causing the processor to transmit the first telephone number and the second telephone number to the switch.

Claim 53 (Currently amended): The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising instructions for causing the processor to:

receive call status information from the switch; and

send the call status information to the client computer.

Claim 54 (Original): The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising instructions for causing the processor to send a call initiation message for causing the signal to be sent to the switch.

Claim 55 (Original): The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the call initiation message is sent directly to the switch.

Claim 56 (Original): The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the call initiation message is sent to a server.

Claim 57 (Original): The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more HTTP requests.

Claim 58 (Original): The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the call initiation message comprises one or more SIP messages sent on a data network.